Message Text

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TAGS: SENV, PINT, PGOV, EGEN, TGEN, UR

SUBJECT: NEW STATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

REF: MOSCOW 6672

1. IN APRIL 7 CONVERSATION WITH SCICOUNS, YURIY IZRAEL'
CHAIRMAN OF HYDROMET WAS VERY CAUTIOUS IN COMMENTING ON
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FORMATION OF NEW STATE COMMITTEE FOR
HYDROLOGY AND CONTROL OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT.
(REF) IZRAEL' CONFIRMED THAT THE STATE COMMITTEE WILL
PLAY A CENTRAL COORDINATING ROLE IN SOVIET ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION EFFORTS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT ALL SOVIET
MINISTRIES OR INSTITUTIONS CURRENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR
IMPLEMENTING PORTIONS OF SOVIET ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
PROGRAMS WILL RETAIN THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE FUTURE.
IZRAEL' WAS UNWILLING TO COMMENT ON WHETHER THE NEW STATE
COMMITTEE WILL RECEIVE ANY ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT POWERS;
NOTING THAT ENFORCEMENT IS A COMPLICATED LEGAL AND ADLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINISTRATIVE QUESTION WHICH IS STILL BEING DISCUSSED. IZRAEL' DID NOT COMMENT ON WHO WOULD BE NAMED CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IZRAEL' WOULD NOT COMMENT ON HIS CHANCES OF ASSUMING CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE, HIS DEMEANOR DURING THE CONVERSATION, HIS REFERENCES

TO FUTURE ACTIVITIES, AND PREVIOUS REPORTS (REF) LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT IZRAEL' HAS AN EXCELLENT CHANCE TO BE NAMED TO THE POSITION. IZRAEL' IS AN ABLE SCIENTIST-ADMINISTRATOR, HOWEVER, HE LACKS THE POLITICAL BASE TO SERIOUSLY CHALLENGE THE INDUSTRIAL MINISTRIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION QUESTIONS. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT HAS SUCH GREAT PRIORITY TO THE LEADERSHIP THAT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE NEW STATE COMMITTEE WILL BE SUPPLIED WITH THE TEETH TO DO A REAL ENFORCEMENT JOB. A MORE POWERFUL CHOICE WOULD BE IZRAEL'S PREDECESSOR YE. K. FEDEROV, CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE. TOON

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